

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to
Examiner Matthew O. Savage at Facsimile No. 703-872-8308, Commissioner for
Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at the date shown below.
Dated December 29, 2003 Signature David J. Rinkers
(David J. Rinkers)

Docket No.: HHI-031US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

In re Patent Application of:
Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890588

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH
ADDITIONAL RETAINER

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Matthew O. Savage

DEC 29 2003
OFFICIAL

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2003, the response period of which
is extended to Monday, December 29, 2003 by the accompanying Request for Extension of
Time, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: